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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **YAJIMA, Taro, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **1753**

Serial No.: **10/657,192**

Examiner: **Rodney G. McDonald**

Filed: **September 9, 2003**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: **1622**

For: **MATCHING BOX, VACUUM APPARATUS USING THE SAME, AND
VACUUM PROCESSING METHOD**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 31, 2006

Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment in conjunction with the Request for Continued Examination filed on January 6, 2006. Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.